

**UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA ACADEMIC SENATE
UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON COMPUTING AND COMMUNICATIONS**

ANNUAL REPORT 2011-2012

TO THE ASSEMBLY OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE:

The University Committee on Computing and Communications (UCCC) is charged by Senate Bylaw 155 to represent the Senate in all matters of instruction and research policy involving the use of information and communications technology and advising the president concerning the acquisition and use of information and communications technology. UCCC held two meetings and one teleconference during the 2010-2011 academic year. Highlights of the committee's actions are outlined below.

Shared Research Computing Project

The status of the Shared Research Computing Project (ShaRCS) was discussed several times this year. Objectives of the project included demonstrating the ability to effectively administer system wide resources and serve PIs and their equipment needs. The project has been running for one year and there was no clear information about the commitment for ongoing systemwide funding for the project after the pilot is completed in March. A detailed business model proposal to continue the project was developed by Information Resources and Communication based on best practices and experiences at other institutions that used similar models. Feedback from the campuses solicited in response to a request from the provost revealed that some campuses would be willing to commit resources if the project continued but other campuses were unwilling to invest in the project. As of February, a decision had been made to end the project. UCCC was informed that some of the individuals involved in this project are working together to put together a proposal for shared research computing that will take advantage of excess computing capacity at UC.

UC Contracts with Microsoft and Adobe

Shelton Waggener, the Associate Vice Chancellor & CIO at UCB, met with UCCC in November to describe programs developed by that campus that are intended to be available to all UC campuses. A common suite of tools will be available but faculty will not be required to use them. Current costs for a number of services is close to \$300 and the new services will result in a savings of \$100 and can be extended to students for an additional forty dollars. The pricing of the whole Adobe suite of software is \$20. The cost for the entire Microsoft suite software will be one million dollars which includes the cost for students. The goal of the Microsoft license was to simplify purchasing, tracking and compliance. New models, options and offerings were explored and the ability to extend the license beyond the conventional three year term.

Disbanding UCCC

This year, the Senate considered whether the committee should exist or be disbanded. In addition to concerns about how engaged members are in committee activities, it was not clear that the charge to this committee establishes distinctive jurisdiction over a meaningful array of issues not already included in the charges of other committees. In January, Council voted to ask University Committee on Committees to consider dissolving UCCC on the grounds that its charge is obsolete. In April, UCOC voted to recommend that UCCC be dissolved contingent on Academic

Council appointing an ad-hoc committee to determine where the components of UCCC's charge should be located and how they should be allocated. Council forwarded this issue to the Academic Assembly, which referred the issue back to Council with instructions to consider the formation of an information technology committee as an alternative to UCCC.

Additional Business

UCCC devoted part of each regular meeting to reports on issues facing local committees.

Representation

The UCCC Chair, Joel Primack, was a faculty representative to the Information Technology Leadership Council and was an *ex officio* member of the University Committee on Library and Scholarly Communications.

Acknowledgements

UCCC is grateful for the contributions made by its Office of the President's Information Resources and Communications (IR&C) consultants, Associate Vice President David Ernst and Systemwide IT Policy Director Stephen Lau.

Respectfully submitted,

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